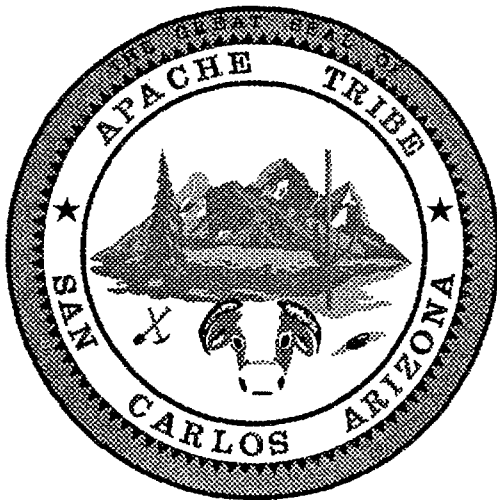




Chapter

3

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS



SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

*for the Airport Master Plan
and Environmental Assessment for the
San Carlos Apache Airport*

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Like most recreational/tourist areas, the San Carlos/Globe/Miami area and Gila County have numerous socioeconomic and demographic elements to analyze with respect to influencing development at the San Carlos Apache Airport. Only those influences which may have a direct impact on future growth at the airport are described in this section of the Master Plan. Specific information identified that indicates San Carlos Apache Airport may see a higher growth rate than is presently occurring, include the potential for increased recreational and tourist opportunities, the continuing production of copper from mines, continued growth from mining related industries, and the construction of a casino/resort on the San Carlos Indian Reservation.

3.0.1 Local Profile

The communities of Globe and Miami are rich with history, recreational sites, and tourist attractions. The towns started with silver mining activity in the mid-1860's. The Globe Mining District was founded in 1875, and from there, many theories formed on how the town got its name. The three main theories that still exist are 1) someone found a large, round hunk of silver with lines resembling continents, 2) prospectors discovered a circular silver boulder, and 3) the Pinal Apaches were using silver bullets made of ore found in the area. Though the silver boom lasted only 4 years, mining became one of the most important industries in the area. Before the shutdown of the Old Dominion Mine in 1931, it produced \$134 million in gold, silver, and copper.

Even though copper mining and its related industries produce much of the employment and economic drive for the area, Globe is also known world-

wide for the Besh-Ba-Gowah. This prehistoric Indian Ruin provides a glimpse of people who lived in the region more than two centuries before the discovery of the New World by Columbus. Just south lies the Gila Pueblo; another famous and prehistoric site of Indian ruins.

3.0.2 Origins of the San Carlos Apache People

The history of the San Carlos Apache people is very complex, and much is still being learned by new archaeological discoveries. Humans have lived in the San Carlos region for thousands of years primarily as hunter/gatherers. About 500 A.D. two distinct cultures developed: the Mogollon, spread from the Point of Pines region east to the Gila Mountains of New Mexico; and the Hohokam extended from the San Carlos River area to the Tonto Basin (Roosevelt Lake). The Hohokam are famous for their irrigation canals and contact with ancient Mexican cultures.

The Anasazi began influencing the Mogollon and Hohokam cultures about 1150 A.D. They brought new pottery designs and a Kachina-like cult to the area. These three cultures blended into a new culture - the Salado. The Salado were great builders. Their structures can be seen today in the Tonto National Monument, Besh-Ba-Gowah Pueblo, and Gila Pueblo. Their culture flourished until about 1470, then collapsed. With the region now abandoned, Yuman-speaking people began settling the southern and western slopes of the Pinals. Another group began appearing about the same time - the Athabascan speaking Apaches.

It is believed they may have migrated down from the north, through Cibecue, along the edge of the Sierra Anchas, crossed the Salt River, and entered the Globe-Miami area at what they called T'iis Ebah (later Wheatfields). Several other bands of Apaches filtered down from the north and are believed to be ancestors of some of the San Carlos Apaches. Some of the bands include the Dilzh'e (Tonto Apaches), and those that settled in Bich'I ehe ("fled to the hills"), and T'iis Zhaazhe' Bikoh ("small cottonwood canyon"). The last band, known as the "San Carlos Apaches" were a small band of about 200, but their name eventually became the one by which all the rest were called.

The San Carlos Apaches strive to maintain their rich heritage and culture through education and awareness. Several books have been written on the Apaches and the Tribe opened the San Carlos Apache Cultural Center on September 22, 1995. The Center includes a Window on Apache Culture Exhibit, Educational Programs, and an Arts & Crafts Gift Shop.

3.0.3 Geographic Data

Gila County lies in the east central region of Arizona. The Communities of Globe and Miami are in the southern part of the county, and are nestled in

a steep canyon of the Pinal Mountains. The San Carlos Apache Airport is at an elevation of 3,235 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL).

3.1 RECREATION AND TOURISM

The surrounding terrain and features of Gila County offer some of the most exciting tourist and recreation sites in the Southwest United States. One attraction is the Apache Trail. This 98 mile trek along State Highway 88 provides visitors with everything from Roosevelt Dam to the town of Superior, home of the richest silver mine in Arizona history. The Apache Trail was actually built to haul construction materials to help build the Roosevelt Dam, the largest masonry dam in the world. The local tourism industry has also recently been enhanced by a \$50 million federal investment to provide enhanced and upgraded recreational facilities and related amenities at Roosevelt Lake.

For those who enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, and white water rafting, the Sierra Ancha Range and the Superstition Mountains have all of these activities and more. Roosevelt Lake (25 miles west of Globe) offers some of the best bass fishing in the Southwest, as does San Carlos Lake 25 miles southeast of Globe. Another popular attraction of the area is the Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum - a museum for living plants, which welcomes thousands of visitors each year.

3.2 LEGALIZED GAMBLING

The number of annual air operations at the San Carlos Apache Airport may be increased with the completion of the Apache Gold Casino, a casino/resort complex on the San Carlos Indian Reservation. The casino is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the airport on Highway 70 and although still not 100% complete, it has been in operation since May, 1994.

The type of facilities which are being constructed include a casino, two restaurants and a snack bar, a lodging facility including a pool and spa, a recreational vehicle (RV) park, a convenience store, and an 18 hole golf course. The casino is 90% complete and has surpassed its 5-year profit projections in its first year of operation. The lodging facility is 85% complete and will ultimately have 74 rooms, a pool and spa, and conference facilities for over 200 people. The RV park and convenience store are scheduled to open in April, 1997, and the golf course in November, 1997. The casino will target wealthy individuals from all over the world and potentially attract a wide variety of visitors to the area.

The new gaming operation is projected to attract numerous travelers and visitors to the area. Because the resort will be in such close proximity to the airport, and given the economic standing of the targeted market, increased air activity at the San Carlos Apache Airport and increased revenue in the County seem likely.

3.3 POPULATION

The populations of Gila County and the Greater Globe/Miami area have steadily grown in the last few years. Table III-1 shows the current trend in population for Arizona, Gila County, Globe, and Miami.

TABLE III-1
POPULATION COMPARISONS
1990, 1994, AND 1995

	1995	1994	1990
Arizona	4,228,900	4,071,650	3,665,228
Gila County	44,075	43,350	40,216
Globe	7,058	6,320	6,062
Miami	2,040	2,035	2,018
San Carlos Apache	Not Available	10,500	N/A

Source : Arizona Department of Economic Security

3.4 EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture and mining make up over 20% of the total employment structure in the Globe-Miami area. Over half of Gila County's sizable manufacturing sector employment is in copper smelting, refining, or copper rod production. Within the area are three copper mines, several concentrators, a smelter, and a rod mill. Cattle ranching and tourism are two other major employers in the area. Table III-2 lists the top five employment sectors in the Globe-Miami area and Table III-3 lists the major employers in the Globe-Miami area.

TABLE III-2
MAJOR EMPLOYMENT SECTORS
GLOBE-MIAMI AREA, ARIZONA

Employment Sector	Percent of total
Services	31.1%
Agriculture and Mining	20.3%
Retail Trade	19.4%
Public Administration	9.2%
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	3.7%

Source : Gila County Development Office 1994

**TABLE III-3
MAJOR EMPLOYERS
GLOBE-MIAMI AREA, ARIZONA**

Employer	Number of Employees
Cyprus Miami Mining	1000
BHP Copper	650
Gila County	540
San Carlos School District	350
Miami School District	250
Cobre Valley Community Hospital	230
City of Globe	155

Source : Gila County Development Office 1995

Through the first six months of 1996, the Globe-Miami area averaged a civilian labor force of 4,318 with 4,101 employed, according to the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation. This results in a 5.0% unemployment rate.

Several new companies are projected to begin operations in the Globe-Miami region. These companies will bring nearly 350 new jobs to the region with salaries ranging from \$12.00 per hour to \$32,000 annually. Table III-4 lists these companies and their anticipated start dates.

**TABLE III-4
NEW BUSINESSES LOCATING IN THE
GLOBE-MIAMI REGION**

New Business	Start Date	# of Employees	Approximate Salary
Carlotta Copper Company	August 1996	200 Construction 300 Full Time	\$28,000-\$32,000 per year
Southern Foundry Supply	1998	15 Full Time	\$12.00-\$14.00 per hour
Globe Micro-Brewery	1998	40-44 Full/Part Time	\$14,000-\$18,000 per year
Helig-Meyers Furniture	1997-1998	15-25 Full Time	\$18,000-\$25,000 per year
Omega Wire & Cable	1999-2001	Not Available	Not Available

3.5 OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS

A review of Gila County wage and salary employment levels for other industry groups indicates a positive growth pattern which would influence aircraft operations at the San Carlos Apache Airport. Table III-5 includes Gila County employment data for specific industry groups for the years 1980, 1984, and 1990 through 1997. Figure 3-1 depicts this data graphically from 1980 through 1997. The Globe Chamber of Commerce reported that one lumber mill previously

operated in Payson, Arizona, but has ceased operation. As seen in the graph in Figure 3-1, from 1980 to 1984 all categories experienced a decline, with the exception of Trade and Services which experienced a slight gain. From 1984 through 1997, all indicator categories have increased, with construction, trade, and government showing the highest gains. Total wage and salary employment increased 57.8 percent from 1984 to 1997. Overall these factors indicate positive economic growth in the County. This economic growth is expected to increase the use of the airport for business needs, including the transportation of company executives and other personnel, and the shipment of supplies, products, and other cargo.

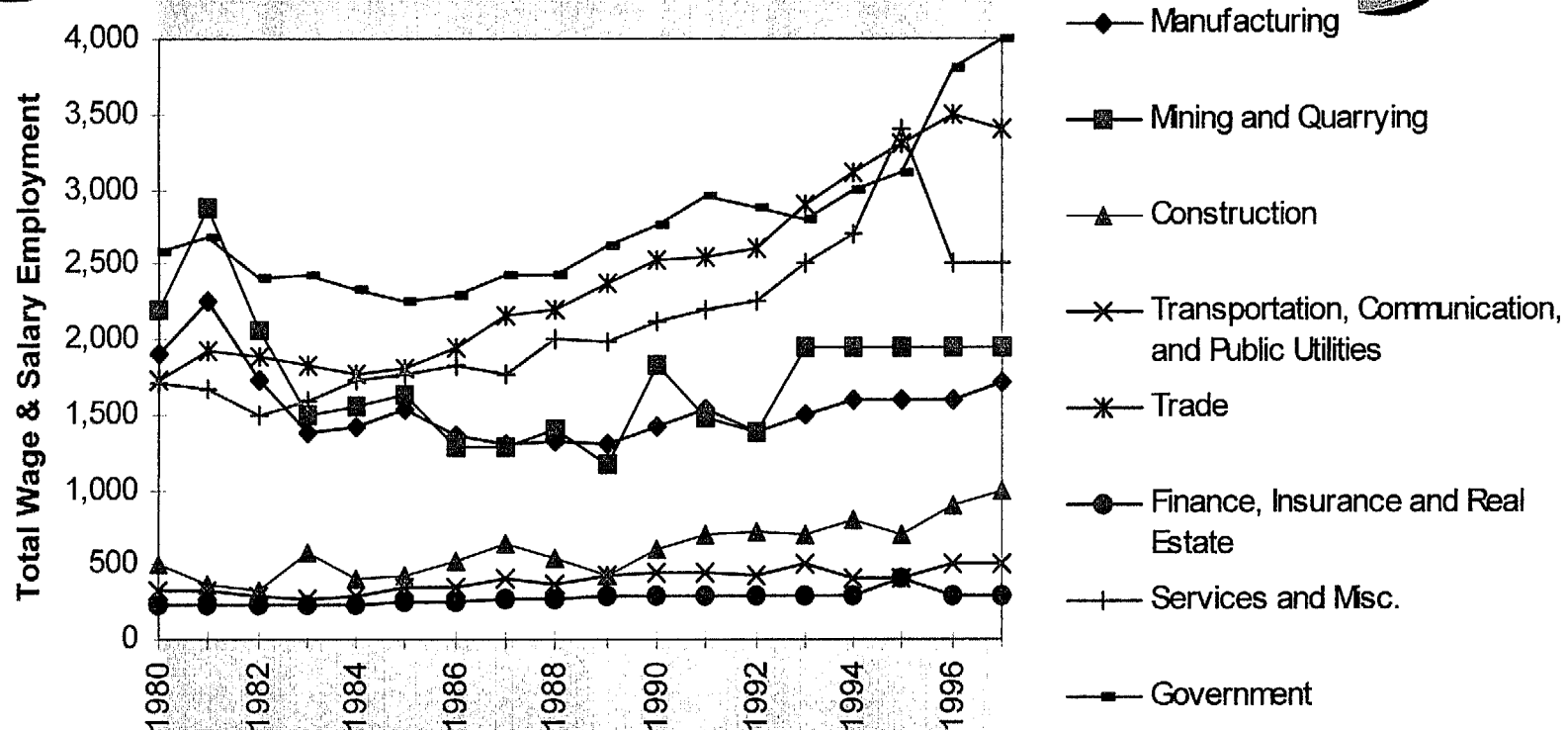
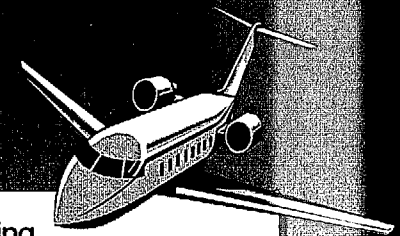
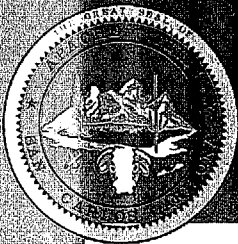
**TABLE III-5
OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS**

Wage and Salary Employment Levels (Gila County)										
Industry	1980	1984	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Manufacturing	1,900	1,425	1,425	1,525	1,375	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700
Mining and Quarrying	2,200	1,550	1,825	1,475	1,375	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950
Construction	500	575	600	700	725	700	800	700	900	1,000
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	325	300	450	450	425	500	400	400	500	500
Trade	1,725	1,775	2,525	2,550	2,600	2,900	3,100	3,300	3,500	3,400
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	225	225	300	300	300	300	300	400	300	300
Services and Miscellaneous	1,700	1,725	2,125	2,200	2,250	2,500	2,700	3,400	2,500	2,500
Government	2,575	2,325	2,750	2,950	2,875	2,800	3,000	3,100	3,800	4,000
TOTAL	11,150	9,725	12,000	12,150	11,925	13,150	13,850	14,850	15,050	15,350

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security and Globe Chamber of Commerce

The data in Table III-6 shows that total farms, land in farms, and market value of agricultural products decreased in Arizona from 1982 to 1992. The number of farms in Gila County decreased at a higher rate than in the State; however, land in farms remained relatively constant and the market value of agricultural products sold increased over 34 percent from 1982 to 1992. This indicates a stable agricultural climate in Gila County, despite an overall agricultural decline in the State.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security and Globe Chamber of Commerce

Figure 3-1

**TABLE III-6
AGRICULTURE INDICATORS**

Agriculture Indicators				
	1992	1987	1982	% Change '82 to '92
Arizona				
Farms (number)	6,773	7,669	7,334	-7.65%
Land in Farms (acres)	35,037,618	36,287,794	37,752,534	-7.19%
Market Value of Ag. Products Sold (\$1,000)	1,515,384	1,628,544	1,526,915	-0.76%
Gila County				
Farms (number)	143	157	163	-12.27%
Land in Farms (acres)	1,151,284	1,189,175	1,151,510	-0.02%
Market Value of Ag. Products Sold (\$1,000)	4,829	5,290	3,597	34.25%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1992 Census of Agriculture

3.6 SUMMARY

Socioeconomic characteristics of the area are used to help identify future potential increases in based aircraft and aviation operations at the San Carlos Apache Airport. Among these factors are demographic and socioeconomic information about the local economy. Three factors which will undoubtedly influence future increases of aircraft operations at the airport include population, employment, and the potential for increased use of the area for various recreational purposes.

As indicated, the Globe-Miami's major employers are the numerous copper mines and related mining services. This factor has historically provided the most significant number of aircraft operations at the airport. Ease of access to this mining region will also continue to be a strong influence in future development at the San Carlos Apache Airport.

Other factors which will have a strong affect on future growth at the airport are continued economic growth in the County, the increased use of the region for recreational purposes, and the success of the new casino near the San Carlos Apache Airport. However, a safe and efficient airport is required to provide access to the region, and to accommodate the increased demand which will result from these factors.